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**EDUCATION:** Glynn A. Green student wins gold at regional science fair

## Eighth-grader creates touchscreen keyboard



**MELISSA MANGELSEN**  
Pelham News Staff

Shabaz Momi was sitting at his computer thinking about a science project. As he typed, he noticed problems with the keyboard.

"I wanted to invent something new. When I saw the stress of typing on the wrists and hands I decided it was something I could fix," said the Grade 8 student from Glynn A. Green Public School in Pelham.

The solution he came up with propelled him to the gold medal at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair — becoming the first winner from Glynn A. Green.

His touchscreen keyboard

**MELISSA MANGELSEN**  
/PELHAM NEWS STAFF

Shabaz Momi, a Grade 8 student at Glynn A. Green Public School, has won first place at the Niagara Regional Science and Engineering Fair for his touchscreen keyboard. He will be attending the national fair in Windsor in May.

uses multi-touch technology and more than 20,000 lines of code that Shabaz developed with Java, a computer programming language.

His keyboard is made from a perfume box, an infrared camera and a translucent screen. Shabaz hopes to turn it into a summer project to get a patent and hopefully see his idea hit store shelves.

"It is a bit smaller than a normal keyboard, but taller. I'm making a wireless version right now and would like to see people out buying it some day," he said. "The way I designed the keyboard will keep it affordable. Each keyboard would only cost about \$50."

Because Momi doesn't have thousands of dollars to spend on comprehensive research, he took it upon himself to do his own.

He used elastic bands and tape to measure how much motion is needed in each finger and wrist on a regular keyboard, and how much movement is used for his.

See **KEYBOARD** on Page 2



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **MUSIC:** Thursday night entertainment resumes June 19



The Fonthill Bandshell Concert Series returns June 19.

FILE PHOTO

## Fonthill Bandshell Concert Series lineup announced

MELISSA MANGELSEN  
Pelham News Staff

The 2014 Fonthill Bandshell Concert Series will be the best one yet, says Gayle Baltjes-Chataway.

"This year we searched Canada-wide to get the talent we have," said Baltjes-Chataway, chair of the bandshell committee. "This marks our ninth year and the level of entertain-

ment continues to grow."

This year's lineup features 12 performances from award-winning entertainers and musicians from Niagara and beyond.

"This is one of the greatest things Fonthill has. It breathes life into downtown Fonthill," said Pelham Mayor Dave Augustyn. "It brings in world-class talent. What

makes it special is that it is run entirely by dedicated volunteers."

The series opens June 19. It includes a mix of tribute performances and original music in a variety of genres including Peac named group of the year in 2012 and 2013 by the Association of Country Music.

When the series began nine years ago, about 100 specta-

tors enjoyed the outdoor concerts. Last year there were more than 1,000 concertgoers each week.

"With any growth comes challenges. The biggest challenge with the bandshell concert series is the parking. The committee has worked hard to come up with a parking solution and the town is working on a plan," said Augustyn.

"As the bandshell concert series grows, the town is working to formalize things a bit more," he said.

The concerts are Thursdays at 7 p.m. Visit [www.fonthill-bandshell.com](http://www.fonthill-bandshell.com) for parking locations and program information.

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Twitter: @fbunemelissa

■ **KEYBOARD**

## Young inventor thinks change

From Page 1

"I think I've come up with a novel way to fix the problem and make it less painful for those with carpal tunnel syndrome to use a keyboard," he said.

Science teacher Stuart McPherson said Shabaz' project blew him away.

"There were two parts to his project. The first was the technological part and the second was the research he put into it," said McPherson. "This was no small feat for him to win the regional challenge and we're proud of him."

The National Science and Engineering Fair will be held May 10 to 17 at University of Windsor.

Shabaz' goal is to win at the nationals, but there will also be developers there who are looking to patent ideas.

"We've had a lot of brilliant students over the years here, but I haven't seen a student like him. He created something that could have a real use," said McPherson.

Glynn A. Green student Emily Bonisteel also attended the regionals and won the Elementary Teachers Foundation Award for her project on basketball shooting accuracy.

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## LOCAL NEWS

## CULTURE

## Artist saves the best for last

MELISSA MANGELSEN

Pelham News Staff

Betsy Bell McKimm has saved the "best for last" on her life's to-do list — Becoming an artist.

In 2012, the Toronto-area artist decided to leave the city for a slower, gentler life in the country.

Her love of animals drew her to Barry's Bay, a community in the township of Madawaska Valley, Ont.

"The inspiration of such a settling comes not only from what I see around me, but from the feelings and atmosphere that are generated by solitude and silence," McKimm said.

Her work of birds, rabbits, sheep and other animals are whimsical and illustrative.

"I don't worry about being totally realistic. I do a lot of

anthropomorphic images like a human head on a bird."

This will be McKimm's first time having her work displayed at the Pelham Art Festival.

"I'm a little nervous for the Pelham Art Festival, but looking forward to it very much. That whole area is really nice and the calibre of artists is very high," she said.

McKimm enjoys having her work on display so she can gather feedback from other artists and art enthusiasts.

"Art shows are a lot of fun. The feedback is great because you're not sure if you're doing a decent job until someone tells you."

McKimm has been painting since 2005 after mid-life brought her new opportunities that meant a return to school and earning her fine art diploma from the Toronto

School of Art in 2009.

She uses many mediums including ink, graphite, watercolour, acrylic and oil.

Her Chain of Being series evolved from her love of drawing and painting animals as if they had a human element to their characters, or conversely, humans with animal tendencies. McKimm's Black and White in Colour is her latest series to continue the theme of nature, but with a concentration on birds.

The Pelham Art Festival will be May 9, 10 and 11, at the Pelham Arena, 1120 Haist St. Proceeds benefit the Pelham libraries and community arts projects.

For more information on the festival visit [www.pelhamartfestival.com](http://www.pelhamartfestival.com).

[melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca](mailto:melissa.mangelsen@sunmedia.ca)  
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PHOTO PROVIDED

Toronto-area artist Betsy Bell McKimm has saved the best for last - her art. She is a new addition to this year's Pelham Art Festival, May 9 to 11 at the Pelham Arena.

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# Fiscally responsible with Pelham's property taxes

**DAVE AUGUSTIN**  
Mayor of the Town of Pelham

At our March 20 Regional Council meeting, we approved the 2014 Property Tax Rates and Tax Ratios. These rates and ratios apply to all property tax classes across the Region.

What does it mean for Pelham?

**Reassessment Year:** As I wrote about last spring, 2013 was a "reassessment" year. That meant that the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation — the Provincial body that sets a value your home and property — re-evaluated and assessed all properties in the Province as of January 1, 2014. While this amount will be used as the value of your home in 2014, MPAC phases in any assessment increases evenly over a four-year period. The Town uses that changing assessment value

when we calculate your property taxes each year.

**Property Tax Calculation:** The amount of property tax you pay to the Town of Pelham, to the Region, and to the Province (for Education) is not only based on the Market Value Assessment of your property; we multiply your assessment by each of the tax rates and add them up for your total bill.

Despite your tax rate being set by each entity for their services, the Town collects the taxes and distributes it appropriately.

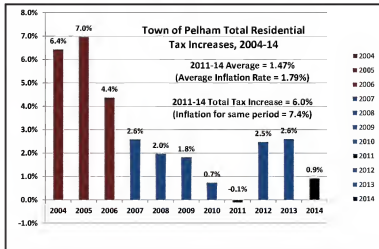
2011 to 2014:  
When Town Council approved our 2014 Operating Budget in February, we anticipated that the Pelham portion of your property tax bill would increase by 1.5%. Now that the Region has set rates, we know that the combined property tax increase for an average property in Pelham

will be 0.9%. We anticipate being the lowest or second lowest just this year.

But, what about over a longer period of time? Let's compare this term of Council with the last term of Council, and with inflation. The average increase of property taxes on your combined residential property tax bill for the last four years was 1.5% (total increase 6.0%); for the previous four years — from 2007 to 2010 — it was 1.8% (total increase 7.3%).

Lower than inflation: How do we measure whether that is "good" or not? Another important comparator would be inflation. Inflation for the last four-year period was 7.35% or an average of 1.79% per year.

I hope you too are pleased that our residential tax increases have been 1.35% below inflation for the last four years. Please see the



Town of Pelham shows a residential tax increase 1.35% below inflation for the last four years.

chart for more information. Pelham Council and I continue to direct staff to ensure that we only mini-

mally impact you and other property tax-payers while we increase the level and quality of services to the Town.

You may contact Mayor Dave at [mayordave@pelham.ca](mailto:mayordave@pelham.ca) or read past columns at [www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com](http://www.pelhammayordave.blogspot.com).

# Is Colbert right for late-night TV?

It's not that people hate Stephen Colbert. They hate change.

Especially in their jammies, late at night in front of the TV. Among many reasons Johnny Carson was so beloved is that he was literally the last person people saw before they went to bed. When he retired in 1992, it was a sudden, jarring change in routine for millions of people.

Even more love to be showered on David Letterman when he pulls the plug next year, ending a dominant 33-year reign as the greatest

late-night host ever.

And expect a cynical greeting for Colbert, who was announced as his replacement for *The Late Show* by CBS on Thursday.

It seems bizarre, but suddenly Colbert has something to prove. Starting with *The Daily Show* and then his own brilliant *The Colbert Report*, he brought the news to people through the guise of a snark, conservative-leaning patriot. It was a masterful creation, both mocking and embracing his lack of belief by satirizing the likes of Bill O'Reilly.

He won three Emmys,

wrote a bestselling book and even spoke at a White House Correspondents Association Dinner, where he did the unthinkable — ripped President George W. Bush.

"I stand by this man because he stands for things," he said. "Not only for things, he stands on things. Things like aircraft carriers and rubble and recently flooded city squares."

Rating for his show went up 37% the next week. Colbert, like Stewart, was the new face of network news — guys who knew this world is too stupid to be objective. Why suggest it?

But here's the problem — as great as Colbert's character was, it was still a character. His acts and interviews were done under the persona of something he created. It's why he got away with so much.

That won't work in Letterman's old spot. If the Jay Leno/Conan O'Brien misfire providing anything, it's that 11:30 p.m. talk shows have a threshold for weirdness. Even Letterman had to adjust, becoming much less adventurous when he jumped to the earlier slot on CBS in 1993, to directly compete with Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*. Ask

Letterman fans to recall their fondest memories, and most of them occurred when he was hosting *Late Night* on NBC at 12:30 a.m.

A muzzled, more tame Colbert is a gamble. We haven't seen Colbert as himself, and suddenly he's getting the reins to a late-night institution. This will be bigger than Leno replacing Carson — in the weeks leading up to Letterman's departure, you will hear over and over how he usurped his idol to become the true king of late night.

Other names were in the

mix. Craig Ferguson. Ellen DeGeneres. Even Howard Stern. None of them were as big a gamble as Colbert, and yet, none of them sound as appealing. Crash or burn, Stephen Colbert will be must-see TV on the Late Show.

If there's precedent, it's Letterman himself. Before he was a late-night fixture, he was a weatherman. And a failed actor. And, yes, the host of a cancelled morning comedy show. From that came the greatest ever. And that's the truth.

[johnlaw@sunmedia.ca](http://johnlaw@sunmedia.ca)





# LOCAL NEWS

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### IN BRIEF

#### Youth face charges in break-ins

Three youths face criminal charges in connection to two residential break-ins in Pelham last week.

Niagara Regional Police said the crimes occurred at homes on Canboro Rd. and Mettler Rd.

Several items were taken from the homes, including a golf cart which youths were seen driving in Pelham last Friday.

On Saturday police arrested three youths — aged 14, 15 and 17 — and charged each with two counts of break, enter and theft and possession of property obtained by crime. Their identities are protected by the Youth Criminal Justice Act.

Police search for suspects  
 Niagara Regional Police are looking for two suspects after a stolen truck was recovered early Friday morning. Const. Derek Watson said a 2013

Ford F150 four-wheel-drive vehicle was stolen from the driveway of a Damude Dr. home in Pelham between 10 p.m. Wednesday and 7 a.m. April 10.

At about 5:15 a.m. Friday morning, police officers saw a vehicle matching the description of the stolen truck driving on Asher St. As the vehicle pulled to the curb, Watson said two males jumped from the truck's passenger side door and fled from the area.

#### Trucker jailed for smuggling

A Canadian truck driver was sentenced to 166 months behind bars in the United States after being convicted of smuggling \$1.5 million worth of drugs across a Niagara border crossing.

A jury in a Buffalo, N.Y., courtroom on Friday found Osborne Young, 47, of Richmond Hill, guilty of importing approximately 147,000 pills containing benzylpiperazine, commonly referred to as ecstasy, into the U.S. from Canada.

Court was told Osborne was stopped at the Queenston-Lewiston Bridge in April 2012.

Border agents discovered approximately 147,000 ecstasy pills concealed in the refrigeration unit of his tractor-trailer.

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Drop in and try any session for \$6 or purchase your 10 + 2 bonus passes for \$60. For more information on any of the Zumba classes, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

### Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - Apr 22 and Apr 24

Interested in walking in Pelham? Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join us! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10 am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30 am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

### Summer Programs - Aquatics & Summer Camps

Registration is now open for swimming lessons, Lifesaving Training Programs, the Pelham Penguins Swim Team and the Triathlon Club, Summer Day Camps, Playground Program, Specialty Camps: Bike Camp; Art Camp; Sports Camp; You're the Chef Camp. Registration forms are available at [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca) and at Town Hall.

## ♣ COMMUNITY EVENTS & NEWS

Pelham's 10<sup>th</sup> EGGstravaganza - Saturday, April 19, 2014 at 11:00 sharp! - **Harold Black Park** - Ages 12 & under. Please bring your own basket. Area will be divided by age groups. Meet the Easter Bunny & stay for a barbeque with proceeds supporting the Canada Day Fireworks Display.



**Communities in Bloom - Spring Gardening Series with Karin Vermeer** - Thursday, April 24 at 7pm. Topic: Unusual Gardening. Venue: Vermeer's Garden Centre. **Only \$5.00 per session!** Registration and payment required in advance. Please contact the Town of Pelham at 905-892-2607 ext. 329 or [jcook@pelham.ca](mailto:jcook@pelham.ca).

**Community Clean Up Days - Help Keep Pelham Beautiful** - Corporate Challenge Day: Thursday, April 24; Student Participation Day: Friday, April 25; Community Clean Up Day: Saturday, April 26 - 9:00am to 12:00pm at Centennial Park, 999 Church Street. Barbeque lunch provided. Thanks to the Fenwick Lions Club & Tim Hortons for their contributions. Register at [pelham.ca](http://pelham.ca)

**Pelham Mayor's Gala Tickets Now Available** - On Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Mayor Dave Augustyn and community volunteers will host the Sixth Annual Pelham Mayor's Gala at Lookout Point Golf & Country Club. Tickets are "NOW" available and sell out fast! Individual tickets are available for purchase at \$135 each. Partnerships are also available through the "NEW" Mayor's Gala Champions Program. Please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 337 or [mtoscher@pelham.ca](mailto:mtoscher@pelham.ca).

**Come Join Pelham's 2014 Heritage Tea Committee!** We are eager to have you share your talents and help us plan our annual Heritage Tea Celebration happening on Saturday, June 28, 2014. If interested, please contact 905-892-2607 ext. 329

**Summerfest Vendor Applications** - It's time to start planning to "Chill on the Hill"! Vendor applications for Pelham Summerfest are now available on [pelhamsummerfest.ca](http://pelhamsummerfest.ca).

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**Nancy Yungblut**

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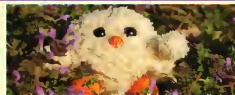
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*Happy Easter from the Town of Pelham*

Please note Town Facilities will be **closed Friday**

**April 18 and Monday April 21**  
for Easter Holiday observances.







# LOCALNEWS

■ **WEATHER:** A season's worth of garbage surfaces as snow melts

## Cleaning up winter's trash

**RAY SPITERI**  
QMI Agency Niagara

A long winter's worth of trash has surfaced now that most of the snow has left Niagara.

"The city will typically look very dirty in the spring," said John Morocco, operations superintendent for Niagara Falls. Spring cleanup crews will be busy picking up garbage alongside roads, sidewalks and public spaces.

Water bottles, coffee cups and wrappers have been buried under snow for an extended period of time, hiding it from public view.

"We're uncovering a whole winter's worth of litter all at once," said Ralph Scholz, associate director of transportation operations for Niagara Region.

"It's a different winter than we've experienced for a while. A lot of snow remained frozen for the entire winter. Normally, there are a few thaws and the litter would get blown around a few times. But it's been so cold. We haven't had a lot of winter thaws."

Scholz said the region has delayed its spring cleanup and sweeping program for another week or two as there's still a chance of another blast of winter.

While the region largely focuses on its roads because it doesn't own any parks, municipalities must deal with their roads, neighbourhood parks and trails.

Morocco said it's typical to see garbage surface at the start of spring, and that this year is not much different than in the past.

He said it's common for garbage bins

to tip over near parks and for debris to be buried under snow.

"We'll be bringing in our seasonal staff in another week or two."

Along with street sweepers, Morocco said, crews will also have to clear branches that have fallen in parks during the winter.

"We'll get at the stuff that has been frozen in ice."

Vince Boudreau, a public works foreman for Welland, said through patrols, officials find that people are illegally dumping litter along country roads.

"We started our street sweeping this week. We sweep the roads and get the sand off the centre lines and the curb lines."

Robert Riediger, operations manager for St. Catharines, said garbage is always a problem at the beginning of spring.

"We're aware of the problem and we're moving to get it cleaned up."

He said crews have already started to pick up litter from roadways and a crew will soon be working a midnight shift to clean up road islands and bridges. A contractor will then be brought in to do a full-scale spring cleanup of roads.

Riediger said in the near future, a city committee will be hosting an event where various groups will come together to clean up St. Catharines.

"It's an opportunity for residents and businesses to get involved and clean up the city."

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Twitter: @RaySpiteri



QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

City crews around the Niagara region will be busy cleaning up the garbage along fences and roadways.



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **INFRASTRUCTURE:** Wainfleet's Marshagan Rd. on the 2014 spending list

## Tough winter on regional roads and budget

**ROB HOULE**  
QMI Agency Niagara

We're going to make a bigger budget. So say transportation staffers in a roads report to Niagara Region's public works committee.

Councillors were told last week the harsh winter has been especially brutal on region roads.

In its 2014 budget, the region set aside \$5.1 million for its road restructuring program. Of that, \$4 million is earmarked for Phase 1 of the program to resurface 13 sections of roads. The report says because of the harsh winter, the remaining \$1.1 million for the second phase will fall short of what is required to strengthen or resurface roads that are in a serious state of disrepair.

The report also notes the 2014 transportation operations budget of \$500,000 for patching and crack sealing of roads will require an additional \$400,000.

"We're looking at the first phase — a substantial phase — of the resurfacing and rehabilitation program," public works commissioner Ron Tripp told councillors. "There is going to be subsequent work. We are in the process of reviewing our road network now to determine those priorities. There is a possibility that we will have to come back to council proposing a different strategy in terms of growing the program larger than it had been contemplated in the capital budget already."

Tripp said staff will verify the condition of the region's roads once frost is out of the ground and will report back to council on what extra money is required.

St. Catharines Coun. Alan Castlin said he has received a number of calls from constituents regarding the state of some of the region's roads.

"It does have our full attention," Castlin said. "We are aware that our roads need help and we are addressing them."

The region emphasis regarding its roads is one of rehabilitation as quickly as possible before it becomes necessary



CREATIVE SOUL - FOTOLIA

Illustration depicting a sign with a potholes concept.

for a more costly reconstruction, but Joe Cousins, the director of transportation services, warned committee members what is being spent on rehabilitation on a yearly basis is falling short.

"Of the last few years, the capital budget has had to concentrate on a couple major structure issues — of course Burgoyne (bridge) and Central Ave. bridge, that's taken up quite a bit of the funding," Cousins said. "We've also been trying to play a little bit of catch-up in some of the urban reconstructs in various urban areas. Our concern now that the amount of money we're spending on an annual basis is not going to be sufficient going forward."

Cousins said staff will be coming back to council with budget recommendations when the spring cycle is complete and a review of the region's network of roads is completed.

rob.houle@sunmedia.ca  
Twitter: RobH\_Standard



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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **CAPPIES:** Three student reviews, one classic play highlight high school stage production

## Matchmaker made in heaven

LIZ GROSS  
Ridge College

Drawing from a madcap medley of quirky characters, illogical love triangles and klutzy comedy, Eden High School's masterful interpretation of *The Matchmaker* had the audience falling head-over-heels for Thornton Wilder's delightful blend of farce and heartfelt romance.

Adapted in 1954 by Wilder from his initial work *The Merchant of Yonkers*, the popular slapstick *Matchmaker* gained even greater renown in 1964 when it was set to music as the Broadway show *Hello, Dolly!* Wilder's witty script follows a temperamental and right-fluted merchant named Horace Vandergelder in his search for a wife.

To aid in his pursuit of a "practical" bride, he's enlisted matchmaker extraordinaire Dolly Levi — a crafty widow who, in need of financial stability, is secretly plotting to marry Horace herself.

Meanwhile, Horace's beleaguered employees, Cornelius Hackl and Barnaby Tucker, escape the monotony of shopkeeping in Yonkers for a day of adventure in the Big Apple. Eventually, they collide with Horace and Dolly as well as a spirited hatmaker, an over-dramatic society dame and Horace's loveless niece.

Eden's innovative production was anchored by the cast's strong command of narrative rhythm and communication of the play's underlying

themes. Each performer seemed to tackle the fast-paced verbal banter and often outrageous physical comedy with ease.

With her sparkling personality and self-assured stage presence, Verda de Wet brought both calculating shrewdness and moments of touching humanity to the title role of Dolly Levi. De Wet's firm grasp of the character allowed her to convey the inner workings of Dolly's scheming mind with nothing more than a raised eye-

brow.

As the grumpy "old wolf trap" Mr. Vandergelder, Taylor Perry was appropriately cantankerous and high-handed, adding color to the role of the bumbling penny-pincher.

Lucas Froese took on the role of the optimistic chief clerk Cornelius Hackl with boundless energy and enthusiasm. Froese was unwaveringly animated and articulate as he demonstrated impressive range of character, frantically diving into a closet one

moment and falling hopelessly in love the next.

Tanner Neufeld formed the other half of this comic duo as the wide-eyed apprentice Barnaby Tucker. His jumpy mannerisms and priceless naïveté were in perfect sync with Froese, leading to impeccably executed sequences of physical comedy and witty banter.

Straying from the original 19th century setting, Eden's decision to stage the play with an authentic 1950s *Mad Men* feel breathed new life into the

frenzied comedy. Thematic musical interludes framed each act of the show, providing continuous entertainment to mask the timely set changes, but also imbuing the production with nostalgic flavour.

Set designer Evan Barrett made full use of the compact stage area, utilizing strategically placed windows, doors, closets, screens and even a makeshift 'cellar' box to maximize the space.

Amid the hilarious hijinks of mistaken identity, cross-dressing and endearingly silly scenarios, Eden High School's captivating production of *The Matchmaker* had a greater purpose in mind.

As Barnaby so thoughtfully explained, hitting the right balance between security and adventure (or pudding!) is what really matters when navigating the peculiar maze that is life.



JULIE JOCKIM/QUI AGENCY NIAGARA

Verda de Wet as Dolly Levi, Taylor Perry, left, as Horace Vandergelder and Lucas Froese as Cornelius Hackl perform in Eden High School's production of *The Matchmaker*.

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## What are the Cappies?

Cappies Niagara is a critics and awards program for high school theatre and journalism that's all about student reviews of student productions.

For 2013-14, eight schools in the region are participating in Cappies Niagara, a program where high school theatre and journalism students are trained as critics, attend shows at other schools and write reviews.

Their reviews are submitted, anonymously, for review by a Cappies teacher. The top three reviews are published (the best one in its entirety) in *The Today* section after each of the plays is performed. At the end of the season, the student critics and performers gather for a formal Cappies gala and awards ceremony.

While there are Cappies programs throughout the U.S., Ottawa is the only other Canadian location with a program.





## SMARTPHONES

## An app to make parking a snap

DON FRASER  
QMI Agency Niagara

Traditional paid parking can be reliably annoying.

Street meters sometimes require a fruitless hunt-and-peck for coins. Debit and credit card payment machines can take minutes to complete, as you fumble with cards in rain or freezing temperatures.

Now a local firm aims to change that with a free Park App for smartphones that could replace standard meters.

With municipalities or private operators on board, it would only take a couple of taps to have parking paid and approved.

Those with only a cellphone would have to wait until their paid parking approval.

"The benefit to the consumer is the ability to do everything through the smartphone," said Phil Kirwin, partner of Creative Evolution at Chimpanzee in St. Catharines, which is designing and building the app.

"There's no need for loose change, no chance of your putting coins in the meter and losing them, and less chance of running late and getting a fine or ticket," Kirwin explained.

"To not have to replace parking meters would be a cost saving to the municipality," he added. Expenses would be reduced by not having to have meters emptied of coins and maintained.

Municipalities would get onto the system in an annual "pay to play" basis," he said.

Signs would be placed at each spot, giving a number to text and pay, or app

location to download. An app would open up, a customer selects the parking time they want, a pre-authorized payment is then completed. Traffic enforcement workers would scan licence plates at each spot, with the app indicating a payment was made.

Kirwin said some metered parking spaces could still remain — depending on the need — for seniors and others who may not have a smartphone or cellphone and rely on the change-payment system.

There would also be a three or four-year phase-in with the app system and the system could be adapted for private parking operators.

Kirwin said a similar app has already been developed through Chimpanzee's office in Serbia. It's being used in some municipalities and cities in southern and eastern Europe.

Studies done by Chimpanzee and other companies have shown about 92% of people who park use this technology when it's introduced.

He said "extremely top-level discussions" with the City of St. Catharines could lead to further discussions with senior management. Chimpanzee's goal is to have the app ready by the fall.

Chris Day, City of St. Catharines' manager of transportation services, said he and staff "would have to look into it further to determine the feasibility of it."

"The city would definitely be open to looking at any kind of new technology to help out our parking system," Day said.

Chanelle Gurell, a Brock student who parks in downtown St. Catharines, was

among a handful of motorists who all said they liked the app idea.

"It's better than looking for coins," Gurell said. "I think there's a lot of students in this area and we all

have smartphones."

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ NEW COUNCIL CHAMBERS

# New Region council digs unveiled

Niagara Region unveiled its new council chambers prior to breaking it in during Thursday's council meeting.

Renovations of the new council digs began in September and were completed March 20, project manager Gond Low said. Staff and councillor training on the new audio and visual equipment fol-

lowed, Low said.

The renovations originally had an allocation of \$2 million but the budget was reduced to \$1.6 million when tenders came in lower, Low said. He said the final cost is lower than budgeted, although he did not have an exact figure.

The new council chamber is com-

pletely accessible with doors that open at the push of a button and ramps throughout. There is seating in the gallery for

approximately 70 people. There is a broadcast booth for TV and a number of monitors from which staff can post information during

proceedings. Councillor voting is now done electronically and the results shown on monitors.



JULIE JOSEPH / OUR AGENCY NIAGARA

Councillors begin this week's Regional Council meeting in the newly renovated Niagara Region council chambers that were unveiled before the meeting on Thursday, April 10, 2014. The new chambers boast better sound, more accessible, and new lay-out and cameras that will record every meeting.

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# YOUR HEALTH

**President's own story:** 15 years ago I started to have arthritis, prostate, kidney, snoring and sleep apnea problems, which were all helped quickly with natural health products. I made it my life's purpose to help others. **Nick A. Jerch**



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NICK A. JERCH

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# BEING RED?

## Middle-Age Energy Booster

Doctors on the Dr. Oz TV Show said that the most frequent complaint they get is "Being Very Tired," some call it fatigue. They have no energy or interest to do anything. More food is not the answer either as the Johns Hopkins Medical School puts it "The best diet for more natural life begins with that supply. There is no risk. The Wayne State University researched these ingredients for years and Bell guarantees your satisfaction. It is all right to be skeptical and for that reason we show a low results below and have hundreds more. If you go on our website under #7 Crozier, which has exactly the same ingredients. This rejuvenation means that most men and women may have youthful feelings again for their partner. Those who want it can resume their intimate relationship. We supply the product that works. **It's inconceivable plays a role:** McMaster University says that 65% of middle-aged women suffer with incoherence and this is the main reason why many withdraw from intimacy. This can be overcome within days by drinking the Bell Blender Control Tea #40 available in the same stores as #65. No more nooking to the bathroom and no padding or diapers needed anymore. Many people have changed their lives.

■ **Bell Middle-Age Energy Booster changed our lives.** All I can say is my very satisfied and so is my lovely wife. I'm so happy I have my youthful energy back. My wife thanks you, too. **Raul Martin, St. Woodstock, ON** ■ **I should have started using Bell #65 years ago.** I should have started using Bell Middle-Age Energy Booster years ago, when I noticed things were starting to slip out. The results were much better than I ever reported. **David Buckley, 42, Peterborough, ON** ■ **Being in my forties I felt a loss of energy and zest for life.** I have tried every product on the market. This Bell Middle-Age Energy Booster is the best preparation for aging people. A. J. Carraway, 44, Fredericton, NB



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#71 NPN 8005080

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#24 NPN 8004342

## Allergies

## are a modern epidemic

By Dr. Chahak Hammond, M.H., Ph.D.

What people experience:

■ **I tried numerous other remedies all my life that were not effective.** I discovered Bell's Allergy Relief. I do not have a stuffy nose and itchy eyes when pollen season comes around. I don't have to walk around like a doped zombie anymore. **Leonard Walder, 44, Delta, AB** ■ **For 28 years my life was miserable** with sneezing, watery eyes and sinus pressure year-round or most of it. I was amazed. On 3rd day all allergies were gone. It was like magic. **Betsy Gerber, 25, Dover, OH** ■ **Goaling without allergy attacks** I tried all the medications and none worked. After taking 1 capsule in the morning I'm completely free of all symptoms. **Richard Gagne, 74, San Antonio, TX** morning. **Theresa Nott, 58, New York, NY**



#30 NPN 8004549

## Wrist Pain

## I'm a car mechanic.

Holding tools was getting increasingly difficult because of wrist and tendon pain. After 2 weeks on Bell's Capral Tunnel Syndrome I'm fully productive again. Cancelled scheduled surgery. **William Martens, 55, Miami, FL** ■ **I was wearing wrist braces.** A woman saw it and told me she had relief right away with Bell's Capral Tunnel Syndrome. I got some same day it worked for me as well. Thanks a million. **Diane Frank, 49, North Bayfield, ON**

■ **I'm a nurse, 40 years with my hands all day.** I experienced increasing pain in my hands and fingers. Surgery was the only option I was given. My husband found Bell's Capral Tunnel for me. I have no more pain or inflammation since. You have a life long customer. **Nine Watson, 52, Decatur, GA**



#60 NPN 80044199

# ACNE

## Eczema & Psoriasis

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**Actual Results.** After 1 week my severe acne became quite mild and after 2 weeks it had completely vanished. I suffered for 5 stressful years of having acne and extremely dry, irritated skin. I suffered from Skin Disorders "saved my life". My skin is now beautiful and you would never know I suffered from acne and other skin problems for years. **Zach Leiguster, 18, Ontario, ON**

**REAL RESULTS:** I had severe psoriasis for less than a week. Was fighting it for 30 years with topical creams and prescriptions without getting satisfaction. I live a healthy life, don't smoke and don't drink. People thought I came from drinking. She said that's a myth. Will take it for the rest of my life when needed. **Danial E. Gillespie, 35, Amnol, ON**

**PSORIASIS:** I had severe psoriasis over 50% of my body. Last 5 years I have suffered every doctor and dermatologist. I spent tons of money on remedies. After I got Bell's Relief for Skin Disorders, I've never seen anything work as fast in my life. Within 2 days I saw my skin clearing up. I'm speechless. It was inexpensive compared with what I spent before. **Jessica Sharov, 25, Dawson Creek, BC**

**ECZEMA:** For 6 years my family doctor and dermatologist tried many medications and creams. After suffering so long I am amazed with the results. **Andy Yuen, 58, Vancouver, BC**

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## LYME DISEASE: WHAT MAKES IT TICK?

As temperatures begin to finally rise across southern Ontario after several weeks of gloomy weather, many Niagara residents are eager to bring out their summer wardrobe.

However, it doesn't take long before we quickly remember that along with the summer heat comes the return of mosquitoes, spiders, and ticks. In Ontario, most residents are well informed about the illnesses mosquitoes can spread and ways of protecting yourself. But how informed are we about ticks?

There are many different species of ticks; however, the one that is of concern is the blacklegged tick, also known as the deer tick. This sesame seed sized tick can be the host to the bacteria that can cause Lyme disease, which, if untreated, can result in arthritis, heart problems, and various nervous system problems. The American brown dog tick is approximately half a centimeter and has not been shown to carry Lyme disease.

The Niagara region has a high concentration of ticks, especially in the areas surrounding Lake Erie. The Niagara Health Department recommends wearing pants and long sleeved shirts when walking in wooded areas to minimize the chances of a tick bite.

If you notice a tick has attached to your skin, it should be removed immediately by grabbing the head with a pair of tweezers and pulling straight up. Do not try to burn the tick off of the skin using a match or lighter. The area should be then be washed with soap and water. If you are unable to remove the entire tick, you should give your doctor a call and they can remove it for you. The tick can be brought to the health department for analysis to see if it was infected with the bacteria that causes Lyme disease.

Ticks often pick up the bacteria that cause Lyme disease while feeding on infected rodents. However, it should be noted that most ticks are not carriers.

The majority of people who are bitten by ticks do not develop Lyme disease, however if you notice a red bullseye rash on the skin, develop a fever, headache or muscle and joint pains, you should seek medical attention. The symptoms typically develop within 1 to 2 weeks of a bite. Lyme disease can often be cured with antibiotics if treatment is started early.

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■ **CHARITY:** Annual climb up the Skylon steps draws thousands

## Olympians, cancer survivors join forces at tower

**TONY RICCIUTO**  
QMI Agency Niagara

In the midst of something so painful as cancer, being with others who are going through the same experience is a happy moment. And people walk away with a good feeling, says Martin Kabat.

"We always set a goal, but the real goal is to bring the kids and athletes together to show that the Niagara region is fighting back against cancer," said Kabat, CEO, Canadian Cancer Society, Ontario division. He was at the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls Saturday for the 22nd annual Stair Climb for Children's Cancer.

This was the second year that Climb Buddy was featured, which matches Canadian Olympic heroes and hopefuls with a local child battling cancer.

Each year thousands participate in the climb, and about \$1

million has been raised in the event's history to date.

Some of the athletes who participated included Olympic swimmer Colin Russell, wrestler Tonya Verbeek, hockey player Laura Fortino and boxer Mike Strange.

"The kids and the athletes partner up," said Kabat. "The athletes take on the challenge of running up the steps just the way the kids are taking on the challenge of fighting cancer."

The Canadian Cancer Society is the largest national charity that funds childhood cancer research in Canada. It invested \$3.1-million in 2013.

"We've had a really good turnout. Many people showed up early and we have many teenagers from some of the schools all coming in to help," said volunteer Bruno Campangiorni, who along with his wife, Karen, were greeting people near the front door

and directing them to the registration tables.

"My dad and a cousin passed away from cancer and we all know someone who has been affected by it," said Campangiorni. "Every little bit counts. One step at a time and we will eventually wipe out cancer."

Volunteer Joyce Harrison, who lives in Beamsville, has been involved with the event since it started.

"This is for children's cancer, so obviously there is a huge attachment to our children and we want to do what is best for them," said Harrison. "Schools are getting involved, the students are the ones with the energy, they challenge one another and we hope they continue to stay involved. We could never do this without everyone's help."

See CLIMB on Page 19

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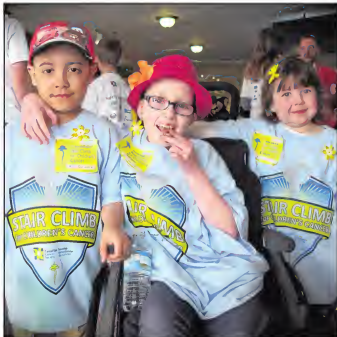
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# LOCAL NEWS

## CLIMB



TONY RICCIUTO/QUI AGENCY NIAGARA

The Stair Climb for Children's Cancer took place on Saturday at the Skylon Tower in Niagara Falls. Thousands of participants attended the annual event including, from the left, Kael Gonzales, Jordan Taylor and Sophie Martin.

## Climbing stairs for cancer

From Page 18

Lori Taraba, co-chair of this year's event, said the goal for this year was to try to raise \$50,000. Last year they raised \$46,000.

"The Wheels of Hope Pediatric Transportation Program is so vital to the Niagara unit. Parents need to travel to either Hamilton or Toronto to give their child the treatment they need to save their lives," said Taraba. "My son had cancer and I was one of those parents. This fund is so important. It helped us transport him for those lifesaving services at McMaster Hospital and we want to provide other families with what they need to help their child."

Heather Taylor from St. Catharines, who attended with her daughter, Jordan, was climbing the stairs for the first time.

"That's a lot of stairs. I'm going to take

it nice and slow," said Taylor. "It's really nice to see so many people involved."

Jordan, who was diagnosed with a brain tumour in 2012, has undergone chemotherapy and radiation treatment.

"It's nice to see all the kids and their families getting together. We have seen so many of them in the hospital and this allows us to get to know them a little bit better."

Since 1985, childhood cancer deaths rates have declined by about 50%.

"It's really heart-warming to see all the people who come out to support our kids here in the area," said Amy Martin, who is from Dunnville and has a four-year-old daughter, Sophie, who went through 24 months of chemotherapy and is now cancer free.

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# Getting sick can cost your job

**GRANT LAFLECHE**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Imagine working in a job where you can be let go for any reason, any reason at all, with no recourse or appeal. Where an illness or injury, usually preventable or treatable, could result in unemployment.

And in this scenario, unemployment doesn't just mean welfare lines and job hunting. It means being sent away and, potentially, not being able to work again.

For most Ontario residents, it's all but impossible to imagine.

It just doesn't happen. Unless you're a migrant agricultural worker. Then an injury could spell the end of a much-needed job.

"It's a very serious concern for them," said Stan Raper, of the Agriculture Workers Alliance, an advocacy group for farm workers, particularly migrant workers.

These workers are providing a value service for regions like Niagara, they contribute a great deal to the economy. There needs

to be better protections for them.

Some 16,000 overseas workers from Mexico, Trinidad, Jamaica and other countries arrive in Ontario each growing season to work on farms. They work in Canada through the nearly 50-year-old Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program, and many get jobs on Niagara's farms and vineyards.

They have been a staple for decades in the region — so much so, that some Niagara residents barely notice their existence.

I was talking with a woman about the migrant workers recently and she said she hardly noticed them. She knew they were there, but they were just part of the scenery," said Jackie Barrett-Green, health co-ordinator for the Niagara Migrant Workers Interest Group, or NMWIG, a collection of local agencies that assists foreign farm workers.

Janet McLaughlin, assistant professor of health studies at Wilfrid Laurier University, said the workers are

screened, in part, for their ability to physically perform the farm work.

Injury on the job can be cause for an employer to let them go, and if they lose their jobs they are sent home.

But for many workers, seasonal employment in Canada is their biggest money-making opportunity of the year, one their families depend on and that the workers cannot afford to lose.

So often, they do not tell their employers when they are injured or sick.

"They are doing hard, physical work, repetitive work, and they can develop injuries from that kind of repetitive strain," said McLaughlin, who has been studying Ontario's migrant worker population for years.

She said sometimes those injuries, if left untreated, become serious, chronic conditions. Sometimes they are so serious that not only is the person no longer fit to work on Canadian farms, they cannot work in their home countries either.

"These are often men who don't have much education and for who manual labour is the only thing they know," she said.

"So it can have a devastating impact on their earning potential, both here and at home."

Migrant workers actually have legal access to medical coverage under OHIP and the provincial workplace safety legislation. But fear of losing their jobs can keep them from telling their employers about an injury, said Raper.

As well, McLaughlin said the men work long days and often do not have means of transportation. If they wanted to see a doctor, they would need their employer to transport them.

She also said language barriers, a lack of translators and unfamiliarity with Ontario regulations stand in the way of workers accessing proper medical care.

To address the problem, a local network of agencies came together to form NMWIG, to fill the gaps in services for migrant workers. NMWIG provides

social, legal and other support for the workers.

Barrett-Green, who also works with AIDS Niagara, a member organization of NMWIG, said six years ago the group approached the Quest Community Health Centre in St. Catharines for help in ensuring the workers get the access to medical care to which they were entitled.

"They have been amazing, and have been on board ever since," Barrett-Green said.

Quest executive director Coletta McGrath said her organization set up a weekly clinic in Niagara-on-the-Lake at the Cornerstone Community Church in Virgil. That made it easier to reach the workers.

The clinics operated on Sunday, the typical day off for most of the workers, so they did not have to worry about losing time on the job to receive care. There were volunteer translators on site to overcome language barriers, and outreach and education programs were offered so the workers knew to what they were entitled.

McGrath said Quest ran six clinics over the season, and saw about 60 workers each year.

The program was successful enough that the Local Health Integration Network, which funds health care in Niagara, now provides Quest with an additional \$75,000 in funding.

McGrath said the money allows clinics to run from June through until October, and run projects to help about 120 migrant workers. The program is also moving to the Niagara-on-the-Lake community health centre on Niagara Stone Rd., which McGrath said will make reaching the workers a little easier and provide more privacy for the ones seeking medical help.

Raper, who is also a member of NMWIG, said the boost in funding will go a long way to help migrant workers, but the provincial government needs to do more to protect and assist them while they are working in the province.

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **REAL ESTATE:** Augustyn wants info on purchase of former Easter Seals property

## Pelham mayor wants answers from NPCA

**ROB HOULE**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Dave Augustyn wants some answers. During Niagara Region's council meeting April 10 in Thorold, the mayor of Pelham used the minutes of the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority's Feb. 19 meeting to question the NPCA's recent purchase of lakefront land in Wainfleet.

The NPCA issued a release March 19 announcing it had purchased 15 acres of what was once the Easter Seals camp along the shores of Lake Erie. The property was cut from 54 acres purchased by a developer in 2006 at a price of \$3.125 million.

NPCA purchased the land from the developer for what it said in the release was a "net" cost of \$1.975 million.

Augustyn said he was "intrigued" by what the word "net" meant, and he followed up with NPCA CAO Tony D'Amario, whose name was attached to the release.

Augustyn said D'Amario told him the net cost did not include a parkland dedication fee the developer would have been required to pay the Township of Wainfleet.

Township council, at the request of the NPCA, agreed to waive that fee.

Augustyn said he was told that by waiving the fee, Wainfleet forfeited approximately \$500,000.

"And I was surprised by that," Augustyn said, "because that means the total cost of the property is about \$2.475 million. So how does that compare to the regional property that we

purchased — that was in the news release as well.

"We were reminded in that case 425 beach-feet of property ... was purchased for \$1.35 million. That meant that that was \$3,100 per beach-foot. This property (at 519 beach-feet) ... was valued with that additional waiver at \$4,700 per beach-foot — nearly 50% more than the region's property."

The region property in question is just up the road from the NPCA's new property, and was purchased in 2010.

"Well, that caused me to ask some questions like: 'May I see an appraisal of the property?' I was told no," Augustyn said.

"What about the Fowler's road? There's three to five acres of protection that's required for the Fowler's road, wouldn't that devalue the property? No answer on that."

Augustyn said he asked the CAO for an agreement of purchase, but didn't get one. He said he asked for a map of the property, but did not get one.

"Why can't we have this public information?" Augustyn said.

Unsure if any members of the NPCA board among regional councillors would speak to Augustyn's concerns, Regional Chair Gary Burroughs suggested Augustyn send the regional clerk his questions and she would forward them to the NPCA.

Welland Mayor Barry Sharpe, who is a member of the NPCA board, rose to take exception to Augustyn going to the CAO with his questions rather than approaching board members directly. Augustyn replied he had copied



BRUCE TIMMS

the e-mail to D'Amario to both NPCA chair Bruce Timms, a St. Catharines regional councillor, and vice-chair April Jeff, who is

the mayor of Wainfleet.

Timms, who did not take part in the discussion or vote instructing NPCA staff to enter negotiations with the developer citing a conflict of interest (he said he received a \$100 campaign contribution from the developer), stood Thursday night to defend the purchase.

"The region's beach just down the road, the region paid \$3,176 per linear foot of the beach," Timms said. "The NPCA for this piece we paid \$3,805 per linear foot of the beach. So we only paid \$131,000 per acre."

Timms said the region, for its property "just down the road, with very little parking, nice beach, paid \$404,000 per acre."



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## ► Where and when does the auction happen?

Sun Media Niagara Sold Auction begins Friday April 18 at 9:00 am and concludes on Monday April 21 at 9:00 pm. The Auction is run through our online store, and is subject to all rules and regulations available on the website. Starting at 9:00 pm on Monday April 21, the sale will end item by item, on staggered expiration times.

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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ COMMUNITY PROJECT

# All hands on deck at youth centre

MELISSA MANGELSEN

Pelham News Staff

The Upper Deck Youth Centre in Vineland is sporting a new look today.

On April 12, students from Niagara College's event management and renovation technician construction programs held their annual Many Hands Project Reveal Day there to help spruce up the place.

In its 17th year, Many Hands has been helping non-profit organ-

izations get the boost they need as well as providing valuable hands-on experience for the students at Niagara College.

"The Many Hands Project has been an awesome experience for the Upper Deck Youth Centre. The event management students have worked extremely hard to raise money for the renovations at the centre, and the renovation technician students have been amazing to work with since Day 1," said Glen Sparks, director of the Upper Deck

Youth Centre.

"We can't express our gratitude enough to all involved for being the hands and feet for the youth of Vineland."

Sparks couldn't predict the long-term benefits to the youth centre, but said if it helps kids stay off the streets and away from drugs it's serving its purpose.

"I see a lot of kids who choose the wrong path. Our goal at Upper Deck is to help them from going down a sketchy path."

Niagara College's construction students began renovating the Upper Deck Youth Centre in January. They installed new flooring on the upper level, new kitchen cabinets and counters in the kitchen and snack bar area, concrete repairs, updates to washrooms, a complete redesign of the basement and the addition of a storage shed for sporting equipment.

They gave it a fresh coat of paint, too.

The Many Hands Project held five fundraising events to support the effort. The event management students raised \$37,300 that paid for the renovations. The leftover money was used to purchase two new computers, a printer, homework stations, a new television, an oven and new couches.

Student and committee chair April Tyrell said they encountered some snags in the final days of the project.

"We weren't sure if we were going to be

make it, it's been a crazy two days. We had big dreams for this and were able to achieve it," she said.

"This project takes the students and facility beyond our call of duty. Students learn about community involvement, and seeing how much was accomplished here in such a short time it's safe to say this has been another successful year for the Many Hands Project," said construction student Evan Michinson.

"The Many Hands Project Provides our students with an exceptional opportunity to apply their skills and knowledge in a real-world setting, and make a positive difference in the community," said Steve Hudson, Niagara College's vice-president of academics.

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MELISSA MANGELSEN/PELHAM NEWS STAFF

The Upper Deck Youth Centre in Vineland held its reveal day on Saturday. Students from Niagara College's construction studies and event management programs planned, developed, co-ordinated and executed the renovations as part of its Many Hands Project.



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# LOCAL NEWS

## ■ HEALTH CARE

### NHS hires chief of staff

GRANT LAFLECHE  
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara Health System has hired a new chief of staff — a respected physician with international credentials in critical care and a tangential connection to one of the biggest political scandals in Ontario.

The NHS announced last week, after a protracted search, that Dr. Thomas Stewart, currently working at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto, will replace outgoing interim chief of staff Dr. Joanna Hope, who saw the NHS through the 2011 C. difficile crisis.

The hospital system leadership praised Stewart for his clinical and leadership skills.

"When you look at the skill set he brings to the table, what he brings to the position of chief of staff, it is very impressive," NHS CEO Kevin Smith said. "He has had a remarkable career as a medical leader, as an academic and as an administrator."

Stewart, who is expected to assume his new post next month, said he is anxious to begin.

"I see the NHS as a great opportunity and a challenge. It is a big hospital system, a complex system, and one I am excited to work for," he said. "I have not been in a leadership position for a while and I am excited to resume that role."

While Stewart is a clinical physician at Mount Sinai, along with holding a professor position at University of Toronto, he used to be the chief of staff of the Toronto hospital.

He left that position in February 2013 during the height of the Ornge air ambulance scandal.

"I did what I always do, which is doing what is best for the organization," Stewart said.

Stewart stepped down after it was revealed that under his watch the embattled CEO of Ornge, Chris Mazza, had been paid \$256,000 by Mount Sinai for consulting work. The hospital could not confirm some of that work was ever completed.

It was also revealed that Ornge paid Stewart a consulting fee of \$436,000 over seven years. Ornge could not confirm what work Stewart had done for the air ambulance organization.

Although there was an Ontario Provincial Police investigation into financial irregularities at Ornge, Stewart was never implicated in any criminal wrongdoing nor accused of doing anything improper.

Stewart said he nevertheless left his post as chief of staff at Mount Sinai to avoid any appearance of impropriety that could affect the hospital.

See NHS on Page 27

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# LOCAL NEWS

## UNIVERSITIES

# Brock offers plan to tackle deficits

DON FRASER  
QMI Agency Niagara

As its deficits mount, Brock University has conceded it is in dire financial straits.

At a town hall meeting this week, a senior official said if Brock's current operating model stayed the same, it would become insolvent as deficits reach \$20 million in 2014-15 and then top \$30 million the following year.

Vice-president of finance and administration Brian Hutchings joined several senior administrators to discuss measures taken to push down this year's operating deficit to \$7 million from \$14.5 million.

Among actions taken is the slashing of 86 staff positions.

"I consider us to be at a very crucial point in time," said Hutchings in an interview afterward.

"We need to right this ship and put it in the right direc-

tion."

So far, 40 job eliminations have been achieved by voluntary resignation or retirement, another nine full-timers have been redeployed to vacancies and 10 have lost their jobs. All are from administration.

The university said it's looking at cutting 27 more jobs through attrition, redeployment and layoffs if necessary.

Despite these and other spending cuts, the university is an estimated \$5.67-million short of reaching its mandated target of a balanced budget for 2014-15.

Brock officials said about 950 people received the troubling news at the town hall meeting held Wednesday, through a combined audience of two theatres and a webcast.

At the gathering and in a follow-up release, Brock said it faces a deficit crunch on many fronts.

The university has had to use millions of dollars to cover shortfalls in its pension fund, including \$5.8 million in 2013-14.

It has also been saddled with \$4.8 million in utility bills, operating costs and debt repayment on the Calms Family Health and Bioscience Research Complex.

As well, it said is dealing with tuition rates capped at 3% for domestic students and a "domestic government funding cut" by 1% each year for the past two years.

These and other factors have caused expenses to surge ahead of revenues.

Hutchings pledged to restore Brock's financial health, but acknowledged further measures could be painful. While no further layoffs are planned, he couldn't rule them out in the future.

"There are great things

going on a Brock University," he said. "Many of the programs and services have come a long way ... but we cannot continue on funding ourselves by student growth."

"We have to start managing our expenditures (while taking stock) of our opportunities."

In an interview, Brock union leader Dan Crow spoke of "terrible decisions" being made on the expenditure front.

"I think the administration doesn't want to take responsibility for decisions made in the past," he said.

Crow is president of Canadian Union of Public Employees Local #207, which represents more than 900 workers including part-time instructors, teaching assistants, lab demonstrators and ESL instructors.

Crow said one of the mes-

sages from administration at the town hall was "we don't want to point fingers and focus on the past, but look to the future."

"Yet there are multiple millions of dollars that are now locked in as expenditures based on decisions made (in buildings like the Calms complex)," Crow said. "And the administration ... is taking it all out on the backs of students and employees at Brock by cutting drastically into the workforce — the people who deliver the services."

Linda Rose-Krasner, president of Brock's faculty association, shared Crow's criticism.

"The decisions around the buildings were ... not very wise ones."

"It's not 'build or not build' it's the specific choices that were made that have proven to be very problematic and costly."

Rose-Krasner, who said no

faculty positions were yet at risk, echoed Crow's point that senior administration costs should also be factored into any budget-tightening equation.

In response, Hutchings pointed out that in 1989 the university decided to go from a small undergraduate faculty to one that would offer masters and PhD programs.

To do that while attracting top students, researchers and faculty requires facilities and lab space such as what Calms provides, he said.

"They wouldn't be coming unless we had facilities like this," Hutchings said.

Brock also announced a new website — brocku.ca/outlook — has been set up for information about budgets, budget measure impacts and collective bargaining with union locals.

don.fraser@smmedia.ca  
Twitter: @don\_standard

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** Niagara College students showcase programming skills

## Video games making the grade

**COLLIN STACHURRA**  
For The Tribune

Video games have come a long way since Atari's release of Pong in 1972, and Niagara College's game development program students are now doing their part in the evolution.

Thursday night at the Welland campus, the college hosted its first game development launch. The event was a way for the college to showcase products and skills that have

come from the first graduating class.

"For the first class to come through, I think they have produced an excellent product," said Greg Unrau, associate dean of media studies. "We were at Level Up in Toronto and were in the top five."

Level Up, an event for Ontario colleges and universities, is an annual showcase for games.

The college pub, where the

launch was hosted, was filled with family, friends, students and some gaming elite from Ubisoft Games and Rockstar Games.

The night allowed everyone to try out the games made and designed by the graduating class.

"It's pretty cool. If it were on the shelf, I would buy it," said lifelong gamer Mike Aitken, a second-year student who was playing the game *Spiritus*.

The other main attraction was a game called *Remains*, which features a post-apocalypse world where you need to fight to survive. It was designed by Thomas Brown and his team.

"It was a fantastic course over all. The profs were amazing and helped us along the way," said Brown, recipient of the Niagara College Chair Award.

Fellow graduate Aaron Everett received the Character Award.

With the success of the game development program, the next start in September is already wait-listed.

Misheck Mwaba, dean of media and technology, said when it comes to graduates from this year, "I want to see them become more, make a difference and inspire the current students."

@collinstachurra



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■ **NHS**

## NHS hires chief of staff

From Page 25

"Looking back, do I have regrets? Yes, of course I do. I absolutely would have done things differently," he said, saying there should have been more transparency with regards to his work with Ornge.

He continued to work as a clinical physician at Mount Sinai and as a professor. Smith said Stewart remains internationally recognized as an expert in crisis care and medical leadership. His impressive credentials made him a natural leading candidate to become the new chief of staff at the NHS.

However, Stewart's connection with Ornge did not go unnoticed by the NHS board of directors anxious to continue improving the system's relationship to the public.

"We certainly did think about all of that in looking at Dr. Stewart," said Dr. Barry Wright, chairman of the NHS board.

Wright and Smith said Stewart openly talked about Ornge and the lessons he learned from it.

"If he had chosen to avoid it,



**TOM STEWART**

or said he learned nothing from it, I think we would have had a different view of him. But he talked about what lessons he took away from it, and he is genuinely enthusiastic about working with us to move the NHS forward," Smith said.

Wright said the board and Stewart reached a contractual arrangement to "protect both the NHS and Dr. Stewart."

Stewart will not be able to work

as a consultant outside the NHS without prior approval from the NHS board of directors, Wright said.

Moreover, as chief of staff at the NHS, Smith said Stewart's job will not involve the spending of public dollars but leading the NHS physicians and helping shape the culture of the hospital system to improve patient care.

And, he said, as with all NHS executive staff, Stewart's contract is publicly available on the NHS website.

Stewart said he is looking forward to providing a concrete sense of leadership and direction for the NHS medical staff, along with working as a physician in the system.

"I think you need to have measurements and goals. When you don't, that has a direct impact on morale because people will say, 'Why didn't I improve last year? Why didn't we move forward,'" he said. "If you don't know where you are going, you have no sense of direction and you cannot celebrate the things you have done well."

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# PELHAM DATEBOOK

## APRIL 22

### CEMETERY SPRING CLEANUP

at Holy Cross Cemetery in Welland. All worn out glass jars, flower pots and similar items not removed will be disposed of on this day. Anyone unable to do so by this date can call the cemetery at 905-734-4172 to make arrangements.

## APRIL 25

### WELLAND MUSEUM TRIVIA

Night is at Welland Community Wellness Complex. Doors open at 7 p.m., game begins at 7:30 p.m.; \$20 ar person. Tickets can be reserved by calling the museum at 905-732-2215. Pizza, door prizes and fun for all.

### SPAGHETTI SUPPER

at Fonthill United Church at 5:30 p.m. (one sitting only). Adults \$10, children to age 12 \$5. Family maximum \$30. UCW bake sale in the narthex. Phone 892-6433 Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday mornings to reserve tickets.

## APRIL 25-27

### PELHAM HOME SHOW

presented by Fonthill and District Kinsmen at Pelham Arena. Exhibitor applications at [www.fonthillkinsmen.ca](http://www.fonthillkinsmen.ca). For information contact 905-346-8288 or [fonthillkinsmen@hotmail.com](mailto:fonthillkinsmen@hotmail.com).

## APRIL 26

### RCAF

Royal Canadian Air Force Association 434 8484 Wings holds its annual joint meeting at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 613, Hwy. 20, Fonthill, at 2 p.m. Guest speaker is Sam Newman, former captain with United Nations Peace Keeping Force. He is also past-president of the Air Force Association Ontario Group. All welcome. Refreshments provided. This topic will be of interest to any former UN personnel and all veterans.

### PROGRESSIVE EUCHERE

hosted by Fonthill Lioness at Fonthill Lions Hall, Hwy 20, at 7 p.m. Cost \$5 a person. Prizes light food, cash bar.

## APRIL 28

### CLOTHING SALE

at Pelham Public Library. All sizes and styles. Retro, accessories, bedding, curtains and more. Starts at 10 a.m. and ends Saturday, May 3, at 5 p.m. On the final day fill a garbage bag for \$5.

## MAY 3

### CRAFT, PLANT AND BAKE SALE

for the Wheels for VanDriels fundraiser, at 1040 Balfour Ave. in Fenwick. Runs 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and include a kids play zone, vendors, silent auction and quilt raffle. Refreshments available.

### FREE COMIC BOOK DAY

Come in to Pelham Public Library and pick up your free comic book courtesy of Pulp Comics in Niagara Falls.

## MAY 7

### DRUG ABUSE TALK

Renowned drug expert Dr. Patrick Sammon will speak at Notre Dame College School on alcohol, illegal drug and prescription drug abuse and the effects it has on children, families, schools and community. Runs 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m./No cost. For more information call 905-788-3060.

### TABLE-TOP PHOTOGRAPHY

Learn to photograph family treasures in the comfort of your kitchen. Award-winning photographer Peter Ferguson leads this informative workshop at Pelham Public Library. Bring your camera and at least one object to photograph. Time 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Cost \$10. Register ahead.

## MAY 9, 10, 11

### PELHAM ART FESTIVAL

takes place at Pelham Arena on Halst St., Fonthill, Friday 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., and Saturday and Sunday 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more details, visit [www.pelhamartfestival.com](http://www.pelhamartfestival.com).

## MAY 10

### CENOTAPH WALKATHON

hosted by Wainfleet Lions Club starts 9:30 a.m. at the Wainfleet Firefighters Memorial Hall. Pledge sheets are available at the township office, library, Wainfleet Avondale Donut Diner, Jackson's Auto Body and Wellandport Home Hardware & Farm Supply Store. For more information, contact the Lions Clubs' Martin VanGool at 905-835-8423 or George DeLuette at 289-820-6163.

## MAY 12

### EMPLOYMENT HELP

Learn about the Second Career program. Presented by Niagara College Employment and Training Solutions at Pelham Public Library 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Free. Register ahead at 905-892-6443.

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# PELHAM DATEBOOK

From Page 29

## MAY 23

### ROBERT WOOD SINGERS

presents its spring concert Remember When, 7:30 p.m. at Fonthill United Church, with Andrew Caruthers directing and Darlene Oord at piano, join us as we celebrate the music of the '50s and '60s. Tickets are available at The Log Cabin, Games-A-Lot (Saway Mall) and Ryson's Music in St. Catharines. Cost: \$15 for adults and \$8 for children 12 and under.

## MAY 31

### SPRING SHINDIG 2014

This concert/dance featuring Canadian grand master fiddler Patti Lamoureux starts 7:30 p.m. at Rodway Community Centre, 2021 Reginald Rd. 69 (Pelham Rd. at the corner of Wessel Rd.). Tickets are \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. The concert is followed by old-time dance, door prizes, raffles and 50/50 draw. Contact Cassandra at 905-682-3800 ext1 or www.cssn.ca. Proceeds to support Community Support Services of Niagara.

## ONGOING

### LOVE YOUR LIBRARY

spring gift basket silent auction fundraiser for Pelham Public Library begins bidding at 10 a.m. April 14 and ends May 2 at 4 p.m. Themed gift baskets, artwork, tickets and more. Sign

up for a number at the front desk.

### WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

The Fonthill-Singer's Corners branch of the Women's Institute is looking for new members. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. We welcome women wishing to contribute to our community. If you would like to enjoy the fellowship and events planned for this coming year, please call 905-892-6891 for more information.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS

visits Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4 on Morningstar Ave., Welland, the first Tuesday of every even-numbered month, starting at 9 a.m. First come, first served.

### ROSE CITY TOASTMASTERS

meets Thursdays, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Lower Community Room of Welland Arena, 501 King St. We focus on improving communication skills in a friendly, supportive atmosphere. Your first three meetings are free. Call 289-696-3167 or visit welland.toastmastersclubs.org.

### A CAPPELLA NIAGARA

Men's Chorus invites singers for fun, fellowship and fabulous four-part harmony at Welland Community Wellness Complex, 145 Lincoln St., on Tuesday nights at 7:30. For information call Kerry at 289-820-6584 or Bob at 905-892-2336.

### BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT

Anyone who is grieving the loss of a loved one, meetings are every second and third Thursday of the month at St.



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Kevin's church (Hospitality Room) from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., 303 Niagara St. Call 905-732-3969 for further information.

### TCIF CRAFT AFTERNOONS

Knit it, scrap it, bead it, quilt it—whatever your craft is, bring your materials to Pelham Public Library for sharing, learning and fun on Fridays from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Drop in. Costs \$2, refreshments available.

### SPAN

(Single Person Association of Niagara) is a social club since 1982 for mature singles who meet and mingle at Iggy's Pub, 115 Hwy. 20, Fonthill, every Tuesday 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. Members get a monthly calendar of social activities. For further information call Lynne at 905-788-0359.

### ALZHEIMER SOCIETY

of Niagara Region support groups for care partners meet the first Tuesday of the month, 1:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. at Welland Community Wellness Complex, second and third Wednesday of the month, same time, at Foyer Richelieu. For information, call

905-687-3914.

### PASTA NIGHT

at St. Alexander parish the first Thursday of every month, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Cost: \$10 adults; \$5 children aged four to 12 (free for three and under). All welcome. Takeout is \$9. Penne, meatballs, sausage, garlic bread, salad; beer and wine also available. All welcome.

### NIAGARA BONSAI SOCIETY

meets on the third Sunday of each month, 1:30 p.m. at St. Mark's Church, 41 Byron St. (across from Simcoe Park), Niagara-on-the-Lake. All are welcome. For further information contact [niagarabonsai@gmail.com](mailto:niagarabonsai@gmail.com).

### VOLUNTEER DRIVERS

needed by Community Support Services of Niagara, within and outside the region. Volunteers are reimbursed mileage and hours are flexible (between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday to Friday). Call Laura Dumas at 905-788-3181 ext. 27 or e-mail [ldumas@cssn.ca](mailto:ldumas@cssn.ca) for more program details. You can also visit [www.cssn.ca](http://www.cssn.ca).

### SCRAPPY DROP IN

Work on your latest cardmaking, stamping, papercraft or scrapbooking project. A swap table will be set out each Monday at Pelham Public Library from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30. Cost \$2.

### BELLEROPHON DRUM

and Bugle Band practises Monday nights 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 4, Morningstar Ave. All welcome.

### INFIRMITY SUPPORT GROUP

Niagara meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. for anyone experiencing primary infertility. Call or text 289-821-4606 or e-mail [infertilityniagara@hotmail.com](mailto:infertilityniagara@hotmail.com) for location or more information.

### NIAGARA REGIONAL LITERACY

Council assists adults in improving their reading, writing, grammar, math, spelling and computer skills and provides GED preparation and readiness for work programs. Our literacy and essential skills programs are free of charge and can be done through one-on-one tutoring or small group classes. Located at 3 Great Western St., attached to the St. Catharines Via train station. Call Pat at 905-687-8299 for more information.

### WELLAND RIVER KEEPERS

meets the third Tuesday of every month at Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority office, 250 Thorold Rd. W., Welland, third floor, 7 p.m. More info, 905-735-8861.

### DROP-IN BRIDGE

Wednesday at Pelham Library, 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Come alone or with a friend. Refreshments. Call ahead for the schedule at 905-892-6443. Cost \$1.

### FIBROMYALGIA MEETING

Every second Thursday through June at Rapelle Lodge, Plymouth Rd., Welland. More info, Vicki 905-384-2294. Support, understanding and open discussions.

### FREE ART WORKSHOPS

Held by In the Orchard Programming for the Arts. Free Art Workshops every Thursday for ages 13+ (sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism and Culture). Where: The Happy Place Art Studio, 1433 Pelham St.

### GET MOVING, GET GAME!

The OSGA 55+ is a non-profit organization promoting a healthy and active lifestyle for seniors. We are looking for people to participate in and help run games and tournaments at their respective senior citizens and recreational centres throughout Niagara. A \$10 membership and registration fee allows participants to play in local tournaments, and winners can qualify for regional tournaments. This year's summer games include: duplicate bridge, cribbage, bid and progressive euchre, lawn bowling, golf, pickleball, precision walking and badminton. Call your local community centre, or contact [ronlemon21@hotmail.com](mailto:ronlemon21@hotmail.com), or call Josephine at 905-357-3577. See [www.ontarioseniorsgames.ca](http://www.ontarioseniorsgames.ca).

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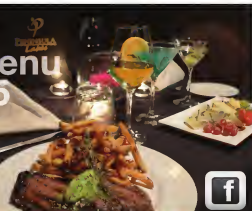
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Appliance Repair

Appliance Repair

Produce/Food



## Clock Repairs

All makes and models, guaranteed workmanship, pick-up and delivery, specializing in

Grandfather clocks.

(905) 935-1962

DEVRIES  
FRUIT FARM  
Fresh Crisp Apples,  
Apple Cider, Eggs,  
Frozen Fruit &  
Preserves!  
850 Centaro Rd. 1  
km West of Fenwick.  
Call 905-899-6704.  
Closed Sunday



## Location!

2 BDRMS available.  
Spacious & quiet  
mature living.  
Balconies, laundry,  
laundry entrance,  
closets & Maple park,  
bus & shopping.  
Starting at \$948.  
579 CLARE AVE.  
Call 1-800-726-3768

2 Lower Apts, 1 Bdrms  
\$650, \$800 + utils.  
NPNBS, 1st/2nd flrs,  
Elm St., Port Colborne  
288-935-9451

KINGS MANOR  
on Glen Park Dr.  
1 & 2 bdrm apts.  
Park like setting, Extra  
storage. 905-754-8255  
or 905-714-1580

ADVERTISING

reasons  
why you  
should  
advertise  
in your  
local  
newspaper

**1 CREDIBILITY**  
Polls show people believe newspapers offer the most believable advertising. The offer is there to be read over and over again. It doesn't intrude unwitting and then vanish.

**2 ASSURANCE**  
Our newspaper circulations are verified and audited. Teleshops verify that an ad ran as scheduled. They have tangible proof that their ad reaches the audience. Radio and TV can't offer this tangible proof.

**3 PERMANENCE**  
Newspapers allow readers time. Time to digest and consider an advertising offer at their leisure. Consumers need not be in the right place at the right time to see or hear the advertiser's message. Studies prove that our papers are kept longer than a week and are read by more than one person.

**4 LOCAL COVERAGE**  
Newspapers occupy a unique position in reader's lives. Newspapers contain news on local people and events, while providing the most reliable source of in depth coverage of everything, including what businesses are offering this week.

**5 ECONOMY**  
Cost per thousand is very competitive, but the results of good newspaper advertising are the best measure of its benefit.

**6 LOCAL INVESTMENT**  
No other medium can compare to newspapers in service to the local community. An advertising order is an investment by the advertiser in the community.

**The Market you are  
looking for is reading  
the same paper you are!**

**Talk to a Sales Representative  
today for more information**



Take a look  
at this - eagle  
grabs child.  
- RJ

## BELIEVE IT!

How do Canadians know if it's true (or not)?  
They turn to the trusted source: Newspapers  
in print, online, tablet and phone.  
And, research finds that they trust the ads there too  
- more than those in any other medium.

Be where Canadians look.

NEWSPAPERS CANADA



# The Healthy Cupboard

**FONTHILL**  
111 #20 EAST  
(across from Sobey's)  
**905.892.9054**

**PORT COLBORNE**  
101 CLARENCE STREET  
(across from Food Basics)  
**905.835.9806**

**Customer  
Appreciation Day**  
FIRST WEDNESDAY OF  
EVERY MONTH  
Open Late until 7PM



## Vegetarian GARCINIA CAMBOGIA

**SUPPORTS HEALTHY  
WEIGHT MANAGEMENT\***

**Our  
Product  
Contains  
60% HCA\***

**Supports Weight Management\***

**Contains Black Pepper Extract  
for Absorption\***

**No Binders, Fillers or Excipients**

**800 mg Per Serving!**



Vegetarian

**GARCINIA CAMBOGIA**

**\$300  
OFF**

The Healthy  
Cupboard

WITH COUPON  
EXPIRES MAY 31st, 2014

# The Healthy Cupboard

**SIGN UP FOR OUR  
NEWSLETTER AT**  
[www.healthycupboard.ca](http://www.healthycupboard.ca)



**Tanya &  
Ian Birrell**  
Owners of  
The Healthy Cupboard

**TWO LOCATIONS!**

**FONTHILL**

111 #20 EAST

(across from Sobey's)

**905.892.9054**

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101 CLARENCE STREET

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